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# INPORT NEWS



SERVING PORT COLBORNE • WAINFLEET • SHERKSTON • LOWBANKS • ISSUE NO. 4 VOLUME 15

For news updated daily see [www.inportnews.ca](http://www.inportnews.ca)**■ FEDERAL ASSISTANCE****MP touches base  
with new mayor**

InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Welland MP Malcolm Allen made a stop in Wainfleet Township last week to talk politics and touch base with the township's new mayor.

see ALLEN page 2

See Inside:  
**INSERTS**  
Full Distribution




**■ ERNO ROSSI:** Author talks about 34-year-old event

## Conditions perfect for blizzard in '77

DAVE JOHNSON  
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Friday, Jan. 28, 1977. Erno Rossi was at his Tennessee Ave. home, marking school papers when the weather started to turn over Lake Erie.

A lot of geese were on Garryell Beach. Port Colborne suddenly dropped to the ice and buried their heads under their wings. Snow started to come in off the lake.

"It was really unusual weather," said the retired high school teacher one week before the 34th anniversary of the blizzard of '77.

Rossi drove across town to pick up his wife at the Port Colborne Hydro office, but her manager wouldn't let her go home. Her manager, he said, left him to go home.

"My wife had to be brought home in a hydro truck later that day," he said.

see BLIZZARD page 2

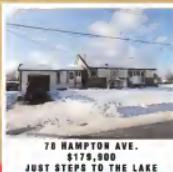
Port Colborne author Erno Rossi holds a copy of the 30th anniversary edition of *White Death: Blizzard of '77*, in the backyard of his Tennessee Ave. home. As the 34th anniversary of the blizzard approaches, Rossi said conditions to form a storm such as that may never be the same again as they were that day in 1977.

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## ■ BLIZZARD

# Tonnes of snow buried everything in its path

FROM PAGE 1

"I pulled my children from school earlier in the day."

As the snow continued to intensify, Rossi, who taught history and sociology, turned on radios in his home on Lake Erie and started listening to emergency broadcasts from the U.S. and Canada.

"I was watching on TV," Rossi thought he could put the radio broadcasts to good use for his disaster survival class at Port Colborne High School.

"I thought it would be perfect for class and the students would pay attention to it."

When he checked in, Rossi was the blizzard would last for four days and blast south Niagara and Western New York.

It buried homes, cars, businesses and anything in its path under tons of snow.

Conditions for the blizzard, Rossi said, were perfect.

Lake Erie's surface area of

covered in ice and metre deep light snow. Record cold days and snowstorms leading up to Jan. 28 ensured the snow on the lake was wet and fluffy. The cold kept it from becoming packed down.

Winds on Jan. 28 started to pick up and came out of the southwest at 115 km/h to 130 km/h. Those winds picked up all of the snow off the shore and started to dump it in a shore land blizzard," said Rossi.

If the snow on the lake had been packed down, if Lake Erie wasn't frozen completely over, and if the conditions were any different, there may have never been a blizzard, said the author of *White Death: The Blizzard of '77*.

When the storm was over four days later, Rossi knew it was something different and decided he would document the Canadian experience, knowing people would have stories to tell.



A crew of neighbours digs out at First Ave. near Quaker Road School during the Blizzard of '77.

He said his own wife became somewhat claustrophobic during the storm.

As the months went by and he started to collect data on the storm, Rossi found the weather service, based in Niagara-on-the-Lake at the time, didn't have anything on the amount of snow on the ground in south Niagara.

He crossed over the border

to Buffalo in the summer and found out they had a lot of data on the storm.

"I went to the Buffalo News to see its librarian and line up some photos for my book."

The librarian, he said, asked what he wanted to do with the photos and Rossi told her that he was writing a book on the Canadian experience during the blizzard and needed

photos to illustrate it.

"She said, 'What about the American experience?'" Rossi figured there would be a market in the American side looking to write a book on the experience. He learned there were none and so decided to write what happened to our neighbours to the east. The librarian at the Buffalo News ended up giving the photos to Rossi at no charge.

Before he knew it, an office was arranged at a Red Cross building in Buffalo and he started to make calls around western New York, speaking to anyone who would talk about their experience.

"I had some assistants at Port High and they would type up all the interviews I did. I'd edit them and then they'd retype them," he said, adding he received a grant for the assistants.

While putting the book together, Rossi found some interesting statistics.

Blizzard of '77: See more pictures, page 3

"The blizzard nine months after the blizzard brought up 18% in Niagara and there was a 3% jump in Erie County."

Rossi couldn't account for the differences until he looked at the abortion rate in the states, where abortion was allowed and when it was not.

"The abortion rate was up 45% in Erie County and about 3% in Niagara."

As the years pass by, Rossi continues to receive information and stories from people about the blizzard. He's updated his book a couple of times now, adding stories and photos.

"There's never been a repeat of the blizzard of '77 in the area."

"We may never see conditions like that again," he said.

djohnson@wellandtribune.ca

## ■ ALLEN

## Drainage issues, feeder canal, sewer and agriculture on the table

FROM PAGE 1

April Jeffs said the two talked about a few things during his visit to township hall.

"Malcolm just wanted to explain how certain things worked with the federal government and how I could get a hold of him if we needed his help."

Jeffs said Allen told her what matters he may be able to assist the township with

should the need arise.

"He told me about a drainage issue he had been faced with in Port Colborne and with our drain program in Wainfleet.

It was good to know he may be able to help us."

The two talked about the Feeder Canal as well during the meeting. Jeffs has spoken about wanting to do something with the former canal that passes through the township.

Though nothing has been brought to council, she believes it could be a tourist attraction and thought it could be given a federal heritage designation. St. Catharines regional Coun. Bruce Timms is trying to have

old sections of the Welland Canal designated and Jeffs said it's possible the two could go together.

"Malcolm said he'd write a letter if we needed and talk to both the Region and federal government about the Feeder Canal."

She said the MP was aware of the recent motion made by the township in relation to the water-sewer issue. The township will ask for the Big Pipe solution, as the issue is

known, to be dropped and ask the Region to help with fix, repair, replace a solution for failing septic systems instead.

"Malcolm said maintenance [of septic systems] may not be a funding issue feder-

ally but said if we could tie it in through innovation and partnerships, it would give us a better chance of having the federal government look at it. I was excited when he said that."

The two also talked about agricultural incentives during the meeting and Allen asked Jeffs why she ran for mayor.

"It was a good meeting. I think there are things he may be able to help us with down the road."



Malcolm Allen

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# portraits

# The Blizzard of '77



Tribune file photos  
Niagara was covered in snow after a four-day blizzard hit the area on Jan. 31, 1977. In the ensuing days, it was a familiar scene to see residents using whatever means possible, both photos above, to dig out buried vehicles. Some, like only an aerial poking through the drifts, right, let you know a car was buried beneath. At left, A school bus that was buried in the blizzard on Tice Rd. in Pelham.



# INPORT NEWS

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Dave Johnson, Inport News senior reporter



## ourview

### Poor diet

Participants in the recent provincial Pur Food in the Budget initiative found the food bank diet a little hard stomach.

The 70 residents from Port Colborne and Wainfleet that took part in the three-day challenge had a number of issues with the non-perishable food items.

There were no fresh food, but rather issues involved in planning around the diet, not having much in the way of choice, working with health-related issues and dealing with food very high in sodium content.

The high sodium content seemed to cause the most problems with participants. Headaches and stomach aches were not common during the three-day challenge.

Intestinal problems also seemed to be a factor.

For one participant, high sugar content in some of the items meant he skipped eating to ensure he kept his diabetes in check.

The challenge opened participants eyes to what those who use food banks every day have to go through.

What the Pur Food in the Budget initiative wants to see happen is a \$100 increase in social assistance programs so people can buy fresh food and medicine.

We hope provincial governments need to pony up that \$100. While it may claim it doesn't have the funding to meet the increase, it would actually help in the end.

A poor diet can lead to all sorts of health problems, especially with those already have problems. And with childhood obesity rates increasing, fresh fruit and produce could help cut that down.

Increased health problems mean more people access the provincial health care system, which is strained as it is, and drive costs up.

If people were healthier, costs associated with health care would more than likely decrease.

### Well-kept secret

If you live in Port Colborne, chances are you've passed by Arts Place Gallery many times and may not have even noticed it.

The 16-member gallery, at 714 King St., sits, has been there since 1992.

Every month or so, a different member has their work displayed on one of the gallery's walls.

This month, various members have colourful work hanging, a way to combat the cold, dull, grey weather of winter.

Next month, the gallery plans to hold an exhibit of found objects that artists have painted. It should be an interesting display.

We'd encourage everyone to stop on by and visit the gallery when they get a chance. It's open Fridays through Sundays from noon to 4 p.m.

## readers' views

### We are getting the government we deserve

It was nice to see the large turnout on a stormy Saturday morning to get the other side of the story on wind energy.

Wind energy appeals to many because it is green.

But it's not really green! Alternate power sources must always be on tap when the wind fails. This alternate power must always be up and running as you cannot just switch it on and off.

Running these plants at less than design level is not efficient and probably emits as many pollutants as when running at full capacity.

Wainfleet is not known for its employment opportunities or tourism attractions. Where proposed new facilities threaten existing businesses and tourist attractions, they should not be considered.

The Ontario Liberal government has taken control of where so-called green energy projects can be located and has contracted to pay many times the going cost of electricity to those operating these systems. That money comes out of our pockets.

It is interesting that only 30 to 40% of eligible voters in Wainfleet would support a motion to ask the province to impose a moratorium on any further turbines until investigations were completed into the potential negative health effects associated with turbines. Council received that delegation then elected to invite wind energy companies to respond at the next council meeting.

I guess we get the government we deserve.

Bernie Cusack  
Wainfleet

## PETS

### Dogs of Group 3 – The Working Group

Originally the working group consisted of dogs that worked for man by doing something other than hunting and retrieving. But this group contained too many breeds of dogs. So it was decided back in the 1980's to divide the group and make it two groups.

All the dogs that worked mainly for herding were put into the new group and it was called the Herding Group or Group #7. All the rest of the working dogs remained in the working group or Group #3.

Dogs were used for a variety of different jobs depending on their temperament and the environment they lived.

So dogs that lived in the Arctic were used to pull carts for help and tradesmen to move their produce or products along the roads. Some working dogs, depending on their natural temperament, were used as war dogs, sentry dogs or police dogs. Working dogs were used to move cattle along the roads to market.

Unfortunately when motorized vehicles became popular for transportation then in many cases these dogs weren't needed to do their jobs any more. But because these dogs were

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### Put a moratorium on wind turbines in Wainfleet

Mike and Tara Pitt of Skydive Burnaby deserve thanks for arranging this meeting and alerting those Wainfleet residents who attended about the potential negative health, economic and environmental impacts of placing them from wind turbines.

A young gentleman also attended representing Tom Rankin, a second contractor who plans on putting up turbines in Wainfleet. To date we are already threatened with up to 18 turbines, yet there has only been one single and poorly attended public meeting and the first turbines has yet to even be built.

With regard to Mr. Rankin's representative, who described Rankin Construction as a small, local family company only concerned with serving the community's best interests, I'd like to ask if they are really that concerned and involved with the community than why couldn't Mr. Rankin himself appear? At least it would have made those claims more credible.

In reality, Mr. Rankin has shown his concern in Wainfleet before. Last year I appeared as a delegate before the last council meeting and asked them to consider a motion to ask the province to impose a moratorium on any further turbines until investigations were completed into the potential negative health effects associated with turbines. Council received that delegation then elected to invite wind energy companies to respond at the next council meeting.

I guess we get the government we deserve.

Sandi Bingley  
IT'S A DOG'S LIFE

Mr. Rankin was one who did appear and respond, and just as John Andrews of the Wainfleet recent council meeting refused to respond to any concerns I expressed and just dismissed them as 'junk science.'

Pretty much what his young representative did last Saturday morning.

I think that at first delegate appeared there were about 40 people in attendance for a moratorium. Once Mr. Rankin had appeared the then council refused to show any more interest.

Second time around, and now with 73 municipalities asking for a moratorium, and a new township council elected on a promise of local family involvement in decision making, one can only hope that the next council will become Municipality No. 74.

I do have to thank all members of council for coming out and attending that community meeting. A refreshing change to have a council all committed to the concerns of their constituents.

Andrew Watts  
Wainfleet

### Let the mid-peninsula highway rest in peace

I'm disappointed with Mayor Vance Bedayew's support of PC Leader Tim Hudak in the 'more is better' idea of yet another stretch of highway paving over our scarce farmland, which the government slowly understands, is in need of protection.

see LETTERS page 6

such great workers and devoted to their owners then new jobs a need to be created.

Around the same time, obedience and tracking competitions had started to become very popular. The working breeds were trained to do these exercises and they excelled at these tests. The dogs loved this work and the owners loved the success of winning at these trials which were held all over the country.

New jobs are developing all the time. We now have working dogs that help the blind, or the disabled. We have dogs that can sniff out bombs or drugs at airports and these working breeds have a great talent to be great family pets.

Their job is now to be a devoted, intelligent companion.

Next time: Working dogs of the north

■ **AVAILABILITY:** How much is too much information?

# Internet access – the good, the bad, the ugly

**P**ornography is repulsive. I believe that to be a fair statement. The images that can be found online are disturbing. Gut-wrenching, in fact. But what's even more disturbing is the availability of it.

There are dozens of easily accessible sites.

Windoos into any of them and you will find anything and everything. An easily available source of violence, degradation and degradation. This is the stuff that's available to everyone and it's free for the taking.

Unbelievable.

Now, I'm no prude, not by a long shot. I'm not naive. It takes a lot to shock me, it really does. But it's absolutely bizarre what's out there.

Welcome to the Information Age.

Welcome to unadulterated access to pretty much anything for anyone and everyone who owns a computer, including children, many of whom have parents who don't always monitor their kids' computer access. They should.

Welcome to WikiLeaks and



**George Duma**  
BY GEORGE

all the repercussions that come with it.

Who cares about national security? Throw the information out there and let's see what happens. And if we're getting off the bad guys, too bad.

Freedom of speech, don't you know?

Welcome to the Internet.

I'm currently imagining a book, one that focuses on the time people my age grew up in the 1960s through to what young people currently face, in terms of everything computer-related, especially social media.

And especially the terrible stuff that's available at one's fingertips, provided there is a computer in front an individual.

I draw not only on my own childhood and how we interacted as youths back



File photo

As helpful as the Internet can be, it is equally as dangerous. Many young people don't fully understand the ramifications of posting things on websites like Facebook.

then — it was so simple — but on experience of teaching at a community college and how young people currently interact and how educators try to teach social media at post-secondary institutions.

Heck, bullying in our day meant getting pushed around by some moron in the schoolyard until we stood up

to him and he backed down.

Today, it means posting vicious comments on Facebook that have caused some of the bullied to commit suicide.

It's astonishing what young people will expose of themselves and each other — figuratively and literally — on Facebook, for example.

And then they in turn are

astonished that employers actually take the time to look and assess the judgment of their employees based on how they use Facebook.

Yikes, get out!

If people are making ridiculously poor judgments on social-media sites, up to and including publicly exposing themselves and/or their employers, it stands to reason that if judgment could and probably will carry into the workplace.

Many of the human brain filters seem to have disappeared.

With the film The Social Network cleaning up at the recent Golden Globes and with people picking up their fair share of Academy Awards, and the whole notion of social media and everything that goes with it, the question begs to be asked — how much access is too much?

It seems we simply don't have an answer for that anymore. Or, perhaps more frighteningly, we just don't care.

How did this happen? How did it allow it to happen? I don't have the answer to that.

What I do know is as useful as the Internet is, or can be, in our day-to-day lives — and believe me I depend on it regularly at my job as so many others do — it can be equally as destructive.

We have allowed this creature to grow at its own pace with. In so many cases, little or no sense of responsibility as to the potential consequences.

And I'm not sure a barn door to close even exists anymore.

*George Duma is a resident of Port Colborne and has spent 30 years in the newspaper business. He welcomes comments and column suggestions and can be reached at: gduma@ogeco.ca*

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TUESDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2011

for equipment rentals, on an hourly basis, of various types of equipment that the City may require for use, from time to time, 2011 to 2012.

Quotation documents and envelopes can be obtained from the Engineering & Operations Department, City Hall, 66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 3C8, at no charge.

Quotations will be opened after 2:15 p.m. local time on Tuesday February 8, 2011 at the Engineering & Operations Department, Second Floor, City Hall.

The lowest or any quotation will not necessarily be accepted.

Ashley Grigg  
City Clerk

Ron Hanson C.E.T.  
Director of Engineering & Operations



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## inPortbriefs

### ELIMINATION DINNER

PORT COLBORNE — If you buy yourself an early bird ticket for Port Colborne Hospital Foundation's elimination draw you might be one of six winners of a Tim Hortons coffee maker.

The grand prize for the annual draw, a fundraiser for the hospital foundation, is \$2,000.

The annual elimination draw and dinner takes place Feb. 11 at 6 p.m. at the Lido Canadian Cultural Centre, 223 Bell St.

It will feature dinner, wine and elimination draw tickets along with live and silent auctions and a 50/50 draw. Admission is \$60 per person, which includes a draw ticket, and doors open at 6 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m. Every 25th ticket drawn with \$50. Payment can be made by cash,支票, MasterCard, American Express or by cheque payable to Port Colborne Hospital Foundation, 260 Sugafoot St., Port Colborne, ON L3K 2N7.

Proceeds from the event

will go towards funding the equipment needs at the Port Colborne Hospital.

Tickets for the early bird draw, which cost \$60, have to be purchased before Jan. 31 by calling the foundation at 905-834-4501, ext. 32126.

### NOMINATIONS OPEN

PORT COLBORNE — Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce is looking for nominations for youth citizen of the year, citizen of the year,

business of the year.

The awards are handed out each year at the chamber's President's Award Reception, sponsored by Grant Thornton LLP. This year's reception takes place Wednesday, March 2, at Roseland Centre.

Past youth citizen of the year winners include Kaitlin Sash, Charlene Hartwick and Matthew Flagg; past citizen of the year winners include Jane Nigh, Brent Kovach and Jane Feagan and past business of the year winners include Tidyman Maintenance Ltd., J. C. and Son Maintenance Ltd. and Dundee Wealth Management. For nomination forms and criteria contact the chamber at 76 Main Street W., Port Colborne, call 905-834-9765 or visit the website at [www.pcwchamber.com](http://www.pcwchamber.com).

The deadline for nominations is Friday, Jan. 26.

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### LETTERS

#### FROM PAGE 4

The hope is it will increase Port Colborne's prosperity by encouraging more business to choose our sites. He is willing to blacken a huge acre of land, which will just fill up with more and more vehicles again. But in the course, the building and paving frenzy will create some jobs and a band of shopping malls etc. But in the end we have done more of the same, and not made a single advance. It's time to think cleaner.

### SEX ASSAULT ON WELLAND CAMPUS

WELLAND — Single charges of robbery and sexual assault have been laid against a Port Colborne man who allegedly committed the crimes against a Niagara College student.

On Monday at about 5:45 p.m., a female college student was studying at the Welland campus when a male approached her and allegedly attempted to steer her purposefully assaulting her. Niagara Region Police said in a news release.

The victim called for assistance and the male fled on foot. Investigation led to the arrest of Crowley Gamble, 24, of West St., on Tuesday.

### RACING GEAR'S UP

PORT COLBORNE — Registration for the 2011 racing

season at New Humberstone Speedway will be held Feb. 12 at Fredo's Dining Lounge in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Though new rules will be introduced at the registration meeting, material outlining such changes as the switch to Friday night racing will be added to the FASTRAK late model class following.

Following is a list of registration times for the various divisions: Frontier Auto Dismantler pure stocks, Brian's Tie Repairs 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.; mini stocks, Niagara Auto Sales pro 4 trucks, 2 p.m.; Cosco Haulage sportmans, Peters Excavating FASTRAK late models, 3 p.m.

For more information, call Humberstone Speedway at 905-834-4002, Cosco Haulage at 905-935-8866 or online at [www.humberstonespeedway.com](http://www.humberstonespeedway.com).

in Toronto. Goods should be shipped by train or boat. Take the trucks off the road, less energy, safer, more reliable, and plenty of room on the road.

In the foreseeable future, when gas is too expensive, we need the alternative of train service. What good is building another highway through Niagara?

I do hope the public has a better grasp of the future than Badaway has. The mid-pen highway is dead for very good reasons. We don't sell vast tracts of our land anymore. It's the job of a farmer to do for two or three years. That does not work anymore. Let's consider at least 50 years ahead. In 50 years, people would look at it, shake their heads and say, "It doesn't make sense, but you know what they didn't know any better."

Only thing is, we do know better.

Doris Tepp  
Port Colborne



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■ AUTONET: 2011 Toyota Corolla

# Corolla powers ahead

JOE DUARTE  
QMI Agency

Toyota's Corolla is significantly refreshed for the 2011 model year, with improvements to styling (front and rear lamps, front and rear bumpers, grille and trunk lid, larger side mirrors and sleeker roofline by moving the A and C pillar bases), performance, fuel efficiency and value. It of course benefits from Toyota's Star Safety System which includes the Toyota Safety Sense-C system.

Every Corolla sold in Canada today is built in Canada. Over one million have been sold in Canada

over 40 years and 80% of them sold in the last 20 years are reportedly still on the road.

For 2011, there are four front-wheel drive models powered by one of two engines, controlled by one of three transmissions. There are also updated option packages and value. It of course benefits from Toyota's Star Safety System which includes the Toyota Safety Sense-C system.



Toyota photo

**Toyota's Corolla is significantly refreshed for the 2011 model year, with improvements to styling, performance, fuel efficiency and value.**

Smart Stop Technology (SST) that chooses braking if both the brake and accelerator pedals are pushed at the

same time. Four wheel disc brakes are standard (ventilated on front).

For occupant protection, there are six standard airbags (front, front side impact and full side air curtains), seatbelt pretensioners, front active headrests (that are moved up and forward to minimize whiplash injuries), and an energy absorbing steering column.

Corolla CE, LE and S are fitted with a 1.8-liter four-cylinder engine equipped with variable valve timing (VVT-i) to keep it fuel efficient while delivering 132 horsepower and up to 128

lb.-ft. of torque. Corolla XRS has a 1.8-liter VVT-i engine that makes 158 hp and 162 lb.-ft. Direct injection and electronic throttle control help balance the efficiency and power.

A five speed manual transmission is standard on CE, S and XRS trim levels; a four speed automatic is standard on LE and optional on CE and S, and a five speed automatic with sequential shift is optional on XRS.

Although the base CE doesn't come with air-conditioning or power windows and doors, there's room for five and design changes to

the seats, dash and instrument panel. A color information display is standard, as is tilt and telescoping steering. Corolla S and XRS get a flat-bottom steering wheel as well as an upgraded audio system. All Corolla get dual power remote heated and foldable side mirrors, audio system with a CD player and MP3/WMA capability and AUX input jack, a dust/pollen/odour filter, a 60/40 split-fold-down rear seatback, upper and lower glove box, and storage pockets on the sides of the center console.

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## Announcement



**Robert Belanger, R.L.B.(O)**

Frank Stewart of The Venge Insurance Group is pleased to announce that Robert Belanger has joined their team. Robert is a graduate of the Mohawk College Insurance Program and brings over 23 years of customer service experience to his customers. Robert has deep roots in the South Niagara community having been born and raised in Port Colborne. He is bilingual and looks forward to serving the French community. Robert will be located at 572 Niagara Street in Welland.

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## ■ DONATION



**MARYANNE FIRTH** Staff Photo  
TD Canada Trust donated \$375 to the Reaching Out and Changing Lives capital campaign for the renovation and expansion of Port Cares' Reach Out Centre. Pictured from left are Port Cares volunteers Robert Shantz and Jane Martin, Reaching Out Committee chair, Sarah Eller and TD Canada Trust Port Colborne branch manager Frank Dedonato.

## ■ BUSINESS

# Dunnville-based design company moves into Harmony on West

InPort News Staff

**PORT COLBORNE** — A Dunnville-based residential and commercial design company has expanded its services into Port Colborne.

Deborah Dewar Design is now available at Harmony on West.

Dewar is a designer and a accredited member of Canadian Decorators Association and has been helping clients design and furnish their living spaces for the past 18 years, operating her own business since 2002.

"After sailing to Port Colborne for many years with

my husband, I am very familiar with Harmony on West ... I decided it would be the perfect spot to expand my business. I have always loved the area."

Dewar offers a full range of design services including colour consultation, space planning, furnishings, lighting, art and accessories, custom window treatments, slipcovers, reupholstering, renovation and new home consultation, as well as staging for resale.

Focusing mainly on Residential Interiors, Dewar also has several commercial projects under her belt, such as

The Village by the Grand, a 44-unit life lease building, a new medical clinic in Dunnville, as well as smaller offices.

"My goal is to help you create an inviting and comfortable home based on your personal style while keeping your budget in mind," Dewar said.

"The design process usually starts with an in-home consultation to determine your design preferences and needs. This can take as little as one hour."

"I am excited and pleased Deborah has brought her design service to my shop," said Bonneaires, owner of Harmony on West.

If you want to meet Dewar, she is in the Port Colborne store, 204 West St. Saturdays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Dewar will maintain her office in Dunnville as well. For more information go to [www.deborahdewardesigns.com](http://www.deborahdewardesigns.com) or call 905-774-5355.

Dewar will also be offering design workshops in the evenings at Harmony on West. For details go to [www.harmonyonwest.com](http://www.harmonyonwest.com) or call 905-834-2288.



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Q. What is a soft liner?

The permanent soft liner is a layer of soft material that is fitted to the surface of your denture and rests next to the oral tissues. The soft liner acts as a cushion or shock absorber between the hard plastic of the denture and the gum area. The soft base will not hurt the resorption of your gum, whose shape and thickness are constantly changing, and the reason for your denture getting looser, but it will ensure that your denture provides continued comfort as time goes by.

Q. What are the advantages of a soft liner?

To name just a few reasons: • Great comfort. • With soft liners, many denture wearers report that they can chew food more comfortable and effectively.

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■ **HIGHWAY:** Mayor wants to see mid-pen built

# Badawey backs Hudak on south Niagara highway

DAVE JOHNSON  
InPort News Staff

**PORT COLBORNE** —Conservative Party Leader Tim Hudak has at least one backer when it comes to idea of reviving the mid-peninsula corridor.

Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badawey (Welland Lake, MPP for Niagara West-Gatineau), shouldn't be getting slammed as much as he is by opposition to a highway through the middle of Niagara.

"The mid-pen has been a priority for two decades in Niagara and it must happen soon. I'll come to the defence of Tim on this one," he said.

Badawey said the proposed highway is imperative to help enhance the economy of not only Niagara and Hamilton, but also of the province as well.

The mayor said Port Colborne set aside lands for

industrial use, along the east side of the Welland River recently. But, he said, those lands are no good to potential investors if there is no road link to the rest of Ontario.

A mid-peninsula corridor would help link those lands, and industry in Welland and, as well, to the Hamilton area and beyond. It would also help strengthen the city's other assets along the new lands, which include water and rail access.

"Our plan for a mid-peninsula corridor is not to link Niagara to the GTA, but to link Niagara to the 403/401 corridor, well west of

**4** The mid-pen has been a priority for two decades in Niagara and it must happen soon. I'll come to the defence of Tim (Hudak) on this one."

Vance Badawey, Mayor of Port Colborne

Burlington. We already have a Niagara-GTA corridor, it's called the QEW."

Badawey said the QEW is too congested with commercial and everyday traffic and while he congratulates the provincial government for expanding it, it's still not enough.

A new highway would take commercial traffic and commerce in and out of Niagara

to other areas of the province, other than the GTA, and also be a good connection to the U.S.

That's what he said, would help set the economy in a direction that favours Niagara's strengths.

"We're within one day's drive of a huge market in the U.S. and we have a lot to offer here with rail and water links. Businesses that

want to locate in an area look for these kinds of businesses. Businesses want to get to their customers as quickly as they can."

"Simply put, look around with respect to the current state of our infrastructure and economy. How is it working out for us? This is not a

partisan issue, it is an initiative that is dependent on all of us working together to strengthen our economic position on the global stage."

As for the new highway taking away valuable land, Badawey said the greenbelt legislation will protect certain lands.

Land that could be used for the highway, he said, would be that already targeted for industrial growth and use.

*djohnson@wellandtribune.ca*



Vance  
Badawey



Tim Hudak

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## The Wonders of Tea Tree Oil

When something has been around for almost 300 years, you can bet it is pretty effective. Centuries ago, Australian aborigines first started plucking leaves from a native tree (*Melaleuca alternifolia*) to treat skin infections. In 1770, sailors from Captain Cook's expedition ventured ashore at New South Wales and brewed a tea using leaves from the same tree. Hence the now familiar English name "tea tree."

Tea tree oil from the "tea tree," contains terpinen-4-ol, the active ingredient that fights harmful bacteria and fungi and makes the oil so effective in preventing and fighting infection in cuts, scrapes, insect bites, and stings.

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■ TRACK: Switch made to Friday racing

# Flag falls on Sunday night racing in Port

BERND FRANKE  
InPort News Staff

**P**ORT COLBORNE — A Sunday tradition in south Niagara is no more, not that too many people will notice.

After 51 years of wrapping up the weekend with an evening racing program, first as Gasport Speedway and for the past seven years as New Humberstone Speedway under current owners Paul and Linda Cosco, the one-thrill-mile track will run Friday nights beginning with the 2011 season.

Any Sunday show will only take place on long weekends.

Dwindling attendance resulting from holding races on a school and work night was cited as the reason for making the "bold move," the auto racing track said in a news release announcing the change.

"With racing attractions in the Niagara region, we need to be on the front end of the entertainment," Sunday is traditionally a family day and it was hard to get fans away from quality times with their families," Bob Davidson, the track's general manager said.

"Switching to Fridays allows the fan to get their racing fix and spend time with their families at home."

Fridays had always been Raincheck Speedway's night on a racing circuit starting in western New York, then taking drivers to Saturday night's racing program at Merrittville Speedway in Thorold before wrapping Sunday

night in Port Colborne.

However, with modifieds no longer part of the regular lineup at New Humberstone, the change in schedule isn't expected to decrease car counts at either track.

"That won't affect it. That's a small town and Ransomville won't affect our track, it won't be a problem for drivers," said Linda Cosco, who owns the track with her husband Pete.

The Coscos said modifieds had only been racing every other week at the Port Colborne speedway.

It's been seven years since the Coscos bought the former Gasport track and reopened the speedway in the former town of Port Colborne under the New Humberstone, and every one of those years was dedicated to getting more fans in the stands.

"We wanted to give it an honest try to see if it (Sunday night racing) would work, but we're just not getting the people," she said of the decision to let the checkered flag fall on the traditional wrapup to the racing weekend.

Linda Cosco added "break even" at 300 fans at least, "but we've only been getting 400 to 500 people."

Moving to Fridays also allows Humberstone to start at 7:15 p.m., producing better track conditions while providing more relief for drivers and hosts.

For the 2011 racing season, Humberstone will run a six-division program, consisting of mini stocks, the Frontier Auto Dismantler pure stocks, the 1/2 mile, 1/4 mile, 4 truck, Brian's Fire Repair street stocks, Cosco Hauling sportsman and the new FASTRACK Series Crate late models which will have Peters Excavating as its title sponsor.

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Linda Cosco

■ DRUMS: Students learn to make Cree fire drum

# Creating unity between cultures

MARYANNE FIRTH  
InPort News Staff

PORTE COBORNE — Lakeshore Catholic High School students dance to the beat of their own drums.

As a culminating activity for the Grade 10 native studies class, students spent last week learning how to create a traditional Cree fire drum.

"Having a hands-on component really helps (students) to remember what they've learned," said teacher Vicki Neighan. "So a handful of class will pass their drums on through the knowledge of native culture they now possess. 'They're getting the real experience today. This is all authentic,' she said while constructing a drum of her own.

Students began earlier in the week with a cedar frame that they personalized through a wood-burning process, engraving symbolic words that represent their lives.

For the next step, Jacqui Crawford

and Earl Dionne, owners of Ryan Johnson gets some help from Jacqui Crawford, owner of Woodland Visions art gallery in Fort Erie, who taught his native studies class how to create a traditional Cree fire drum last week.

Woodland Visions art gallery in Fort Erie, offered their assistance.

Crawford explained to the group how to properly assemble the drums, walking them through the process step by step.

see DRUMS page 13



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo



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## ■ DRUMS



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Myrianne Kataqupit and Amanda Tipler are among more than a dozen students who created traditional Cree fire drums last week as part of a native studies class at Lakeshore Catholic High School. Right, student Tamra Nettagog works to tighten the rawhide strips holding her traditional Cree fire drum together.

## Preserving native culture

## FROM PAGE 12

To create the drum head, deer hide was soaked and stretched over the frame. Strips of rawhide laced through the hide and tightened across the frame created the necessary taut surface.

Though it was a first for many in the class, it's an activity Tamra Nettagog has taken on once before.

This time was special for the Grade 10 student, however, as she was able to burn symbols representing her Ojibwa background into her creation.

"This is a way to spread around our culture so other people can learn about it," she said, proudly working her way through the drum.

Crawford enjoys going into classrooms and sharing native art and culture with youth.

"It's really awesome because it creates unity between the cultures. We're breaking down barriers and destroying unhealthy stereotypes," she said.

Native cultures need to be preserved and shared, she said, so it can continue to be passed on through generations.

mfirth@wellandtribune.ca



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■ ARTS PLACE: New exhibit

# Colourful exhibit will warm you this winter

InPort News Staff

**PORTE COLBORNE** — With everything dull, grey and cold right now, Arts Place Gallery is the place to get a little warmth and colour.

A member exhibit called 10+, 1, running now until Feb. 27, showcases a lot of colour.

A mix of oil-based, water-colour and acrylic paintings can be found hanging from the gallery's walls at 714 King St.

There are displays of children playing in the sand, brightly coloured flowers,

summertime scenes of Port Colborne and even a couple of winter scenes that have some warmth to them.

"This is the place to come and see," says member Cathy Peters says.

Peters' work features flowers and children in the sand. She gets her inspiration from her travels and from Port Colborne.

"Port Colborne has a lot to offer and is the best kept secret around. There's an abundance of beautiful scenery and people around town. The world passes

by Port Colborne every day," says the painter, who started out as a hobbyist. She's been painting seriously for the past 10 years.

When the current exhibit is over, artists will get ready for

another one in March.

"We're always evolving here and change exhibits every four to six weeks," Peters says.

The March exhibit will involve found objects that artists have painted — tables,

chairs, shelves, whatever an artist wants.

In addition to gallery members taking part in that exhibit, outside artists are invited to take part.

"It should be quite the eclect-

tic collection."

During the winter, the gallery is open Friday through Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. For more information, call the gallery at 905-834-9060 or visit [www.artsplacegallery.com](http://www.artsplacegallery.com).

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DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Arts Place Gallery member Cathy Peters puts up one of her paintings for a member exhibit called 10+1, running now until Saturday, Feb. 27.



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■ **IRENE:** Operatic Society rehearsing newest production

# 'Classic' Broadway is a retelling of Cinderella

DAVE JOHNSON  
InPort News Staff

**PORT COLBORNE — Irene, Port Colborne's newest production, is a song and dance show that's "classic Broadway," says the society's public relations manager.**

"It's a very different show from our one (Red, Hot and

Gold) last year. It's a retelling of Cinderella. It's about a not so well off Irish girl in Manhattan in the 1920s," said Menicinian.

Menicinian said Irene is a woman who is ahead of her time and trying to make her way in the world. Through her job as a piano tuner, Irene, played by Melinda Fetz, meets Donald S. Marshall III,

played by Tim Barnai. She makes her way through the "upper crust" society and, said Menicinian, learns she doesn't have to be rich to be happy.

"It's a traditional love tri-

umphing over all story." Sunday saw Menicinian, who plays Irene's mother, and the other cast members rehearsing the show in the

Lakeshore Catholic High School auditorium, where it will be performed starting in February.

Donald Fetz was doing quite well considering it was her first time in a major lead role for the society. Fetz has been in other productions since 2005.

"Her sister, her mother and her mother's sister are in the

show as well."

Menicinian said the operatic society is a family-based organization, where more than one member of a family are members and may be in the same production and on stage at the same time.

While family members are part of the society, new members join the various productions as well.

Starring as Donald S. Marshall III's mother is Cecile Descoeurs, of Welland.

Descoeurs used to be a member of the Niagara Hamilton Chorus, Niagara Chorus and various other choirs, so she's no stranger to singing.

"This is the first time I'll have a role though."

see OPERA page 19



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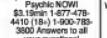


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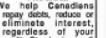
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**20% off** SUPPLEMENT PRODUCTS

Non Sale Items Only



**Super Easy**  
45 plus  
Easymultivit 45+ Super Easymultivit 45+ for men and women  
Gives you the best of vitamin D plus a host of powerful  
antioxidants like 60mg of CoQ10, Green Tea, Gingko Biloba  
and Milk Thistle to help prevent age-related diseases and  
reverse the signs of aging from the inside out.

**20% OFF**



**Stressentials**  
Specially formulated for men and women contain your daily  
multivitamin needs with B vitamins, carbohydrates, magnesium,  
and Siberian ginseng to target the underlying symptoms of  
stress and to give you quick relief.

**20% OFF**



**Activ-x**  
Activ-x for men and women contain essential vitamins,  
minerals, probiotics, omega 3s and phytonutrients that are  
designed to help you train harder, improve performance  
and recover faster after strenuous physical activity, and is  
guaranteed by NSCA to help you reach your goals in sports

**20% OFF**



**Teen Vitality**  
Teenagers have unique needs,  
so they need a unique multivitamin  
Teen Vitality is a special serum that contains vitamins  
and minerals, plus Omega-3 essential fatty acids to ensure  
your rapidly growing teen gets the nutrients they need to  
keep healthy hair, strong teeth and  
bones, and brain development.

**20% OFF**



**Coenzyme Q10**  
Sourced from Japan  
100mg • 60 Softgels

**BUY 1  
GET 1 FREE**



**F.L.W.**  
#1 Selling Arterial Cleanse  
300 Tabs

**\$49.99**



**Strauss  
Heart Drops**

TRUST THE ORIGINAL

**20% OFF**

100ml or 250ml



**Red Rice Yeast**  
60 Caps  
Lowers Cholesterol Naturally

**\$17.99**

\*now available in Extra Strength



**Ester-C Supreme**  
(150 caps each)

**BUY 1  
GET 1 FREE**

Ester C product only

**COUPON**

**FILL UP  
ONLY**

5 GAL. (18.9L) (max.)

WITH COUPON

LIMIT 1 COUPON

EXPIRES FEB 28, 2011

PORT COLBORNE LOCATION ONLY

**99¢**



**The Healthy Cupboard**

**TWO LOCATIONS!**

**PORT COLBORNE**

101 CLARENCE STREET  
(across from Food Basics)

**835.9806**

**FONTHILL**

111 #20 EAST  
(across from Sobeys)

**892.9054**